THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) :

(a) and (b) No instances of harassment of new undertrials by the old and hardened inmates have come to the notice of Government.

(c) Does not arise.

On-line trading of illegal drugs

4861. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Narcotics Control Bureau has detected on-line trading of illegal drugs and psychotropic substances and their exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the arrests made in this regard; and

(d) further actions proposed to be taken to check such acts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has so far detected one case of prescription drugs (Psychotropic Substances) being sold on the Internet in which four persons were arrested who are facing trial. Arrested persons were involved in on-line trading and unauthorised export of Controlled Psychotropic substances to various foreign destinations including UK and USA. These consignments were despatched through EMS speed post to the clients in foreign countries. The payment for these drugs were received through credit cards.

(d) All enforcement agencies have been sensitised to such on-line trading and alerted to look out for illicit sale of psychotropic substances through Internet websites.

Agreement with Bodo Liberation Tigers

4862. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have entered into any agreement with the Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT) for ending a decade-old stalement in Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) whether the said agreement has been arrived at after full consultation with the representatives of the Assam Government; and

(d) what further action has been taken/proposed to be taken to give effect to the terms of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) has been signed between the Central Government, the Government of Assam and Bodo Liberation Tiger (BLT) on 10-2-2003 for a durable solution to the Bodo issues. The main terms of the agreement include *inter-alia*:

(i) Creation of an Autonomous self-governing body to be known as Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) within the State of Assam and provision of Constitutional protection under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to the said Autonomous Body. Adequate safeguards have been built in the Agreement to ensure that the non-tribals in the BTC area are not disadvantaged in relation to any rights and privileges including land rights presently enjoyed by them at the commencement of BTC.

(ii) The council shall have legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers in respect of subjects entrusted to them.

(iii) Additional financial assistance of Rs. 100 crore per annum (over and above normal plan assistance to State of Assam) for 5 years for projects to develop the socio-economic infrastructure in BTC areas.

(iv) The Government of India agrees to consider favourably the inclusion of Bodo language in Devnagri script in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

(v) The Bodo language shall be the official language of BTC subject to the condition that Assamese and English language shall also continue to be used for official purposes.

(vi) A centrally funded Central Institute of Technology (CIT) will be set up to impart education in various technologies/vocational disciplines such as Information Technology, Bio-technology, Food Processing, Rural Industries, Business Management, etc. CIT will be subsequently upgraded to a centrally funded State University with technical and non-technical disciplines to be run by BTC.

(vii) The Government of India also agrees to consider sympathetically the inclusion of Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong and NC Hills Autonomous Councils area in the ST (Hill) List of State of Assam.

(viii) The Bodo youth will be considered for recruitment in Police, Army and Paramilitary forces to increase their representation in these forces.

(ix) Implementation of Special Rehabilitation Programme (SRP) for the people affected by ethnic disturbances in Assam, who are at present living at relief camps in Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, etc. shall be completed by the Government of Assam with active support of BTC. Necessary funds for their rehabilitation shall be provided by the Government of India and lands which are free from all encumbrances required for such rehabilitation shall be made available by the BTC.

(x) The Government of Assam shall dissolve the existing Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) and repeal the BAC Act, 1993.

2. Some provisions made in the MoS require amendments in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order, 1950 and certain other provisions of the Constitution. Action has been taken in hand to implement the provisions made in MoS.

Reasons for floods and lightening in Uttaranchal

4863. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to ascertain basic reasons of severe floods and lightening in Hilly areas of Uttaranchal causing great loss to the life and property;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) (a) to (c) The India Meteorological Department has reported that due to the following meteorological conditions, Uttaranchal is vulnerable to floods and lightning:

(i) Passage of monsoon depressions and low pressure areas;

(ii) Interaction between monsoon depressions/lows with trough in the westerlies; and

(iii) Shifting of the monsoon trough to the foothills of the Himalayas during "Break Monsoon" conditions.

These conditions, along with the fact that the Upper Ganga River Basin lies in Uttaranchal State make the area prone to flooding and heavy rainfall due to severe thunderstorms, cloud-burst and landslides.